assistance; to put on pressure on States that do; to act together to step up extradition and prosecution'.

(b) The issue of Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has been discussed with the US authorities on a number of occasions. The US side has conveyed that they understand India's concerns and that the US takes a serious view of such terrorist activities. US has also designated the Pakistan based Harkat-Ul-Ansar as a terrorist organisation under the US laws.

(c) Government have consistently drawn the attention of the international community in bilateral interactions and in multilateral forums, to Pakistan's continuing and unabated sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. Government will continue this policy. Government will also continue to take all steps to combat this menace and ensure India's security.

**Resolution of imposition of sanctions at UN General Assembly**

1313. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has been isolated on the issue of imposing sanctions against sovereign States when India backed Libyan resolution was carried over by UN General Assembly, recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that sharp split in the Western block was indicated at the voting pattern; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There was no resolution on Libya in the current UN General Assembly.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Secretary level talks with Pakistan**

1314. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas covered during the Secretary level talks held recently between India and Pakistan;

(b) the areas of agreements and disagreements;

(c) Government's position on disagreements; and

(d) to what extent the relations, with Pakistan on border issue have been sorted out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) As part of the agreed composite dialogue, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Islamabad on 15—18 October, 1998 for discussions on the subjects of Peace and Security, including Confidence Building Measures, and Jammu & Kashmir. The discussions on Peace Security and CBMs indicated that there was a convergence of views on the need for exchanging ideas on security concepts and nuclear doctrines, developing nuclear and conventional CBMs, putting in place communication links that are dedicated, secure and failsafe, increased information flow for a greater transparency and predictability, as well as for setting up of a consultative mechanism for periodic review and improved implementation of existing CBMs. There was agreement in principle that experts on the two sides could meet for further discussions on these matters. In the discussion on Jammu & Kashmir, our side drew attention to the fact that the entire state of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and that this legal status does not admit of any change. We also reiterated the demand that Pakistan should forthwith cease its futile sponsorship of

terrorism, and strictly adhere to the provisions of the Simla Agreement to which they are a party, including the commitment that neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent the organisation, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations.

The composite dialogue process continued in New Delhi with talks being held from 5—13 November, 1998 on the subjects of Tulbul Navigation Project, Siachen, Sir Creek, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.

During discussions on Terrorism and Drug trafficking, Government gave Pakistan detailed evidence regarding its role in sponsoring terrorism against India and demanded that this should stop. Government also asked it to close training camps for terrorists, and hand over the terrorists and fugitives from the law who have been given sanctuary in Pakistan.

In discussions on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, the two sides recognised the utility of cooperation in international fora on issues such as the environment and the social clause, and felt the need for enhanced exchange of information on economic and commercial matters. Both sides agreed to hold technical level discussions on the further facilitation of railway traffic between the two countries within the framework of the bilateral agreement on the subject. It was also decided to hold technical discussions on purchase of power from Pakistan. These discussions were subsequently held in Islamabad from 24—27 November, 1998. It has been agreed to continue discussions on the power purchase issue in New Delhi on dates to be decided mutually.

On the subject of Promotion of Friendly Exchanges, the two sides held discussions on visa liberalisation and civilian prisoners. They also agreed that expert level talks would be held to discuss the establishment of a bus service between Delhi and Lahore. Talks on the bus service were held in Islamabad from 1—4 December 1998 and the two side initialled an agreement and protocol on 3 December 1998, providing a framework and an operational mechanism for the bus service. Follow up action will how be taken for signing of the agreement by the two governments.

The two sides also agreed that fishermen who innocently strayed into each other's territorial waters should be released immediately on completion of necessary procedures. 190 Indian fishermen returned to India on November 23, 1998 following these talks.

It was also agreed to hold technical level discussions on the subject of civilian prisoners with the objective of evolving modalities to address this subject effectively.

On the subjects of Siachen, Sir Creek and Tulbul Navigation Project, Government presented reasonable, practical and realistic proposals to Pakistan.

It has been agreed to continue discussions on all the eight subjects identified for the dialogue. In February 1999, the Foreign Secretaries will meet to review the discussions held between 15 October —13 November 1998 and also begin the next round of the composite dialogue process.

**US remarks on Jammu and Kashmir**

1315. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Government had repeatedly asserted on the eve of recent Indo-Pak Secretary level talks that Jammu and Kashmir is not an internal matter of India; but had not only regional, but global ramifications; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto by way of clarifying India's stand to the US and other P-5 countries?